

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 CU-04 SY-10 M-03 A-01 IO-12 OPR-02 RSR-01

/113 W

----- 013897

R 091129 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9150

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 3796

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PK, LE

SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN AND ARAB STUDENTS INVADE LEBANESE EMBASSY

SUMMARY: LARGE GROUP OF PALESTINIANS AND OTHER ARAB STUDENTS TOOK OVER EMBASSY OF LEBANON IN ISLAMABAD FOR ABOUT SEVEN HOURS MORNING MAY 9. GOP REFUSED STUDENT DEMAND TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE, FORCIBLY REMOVED ENTIRE GROUP FROM EMBASSY AND IS IN PROCESS OF PUTTING THEM UNDER ARREST. A FEW STUDENTS WERE INJURED BY POLICE BUT NONE OF EMBASSY STAFF WAS HURT, THOUGH MINOR PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO CHANCERY WAS INFLICTED BY STUDENTS. END SUMMARY.

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1. GROUP OF ABOUT 100 PALESTINIANS AND OTHER ARAB STUDENTS FROM COLLEGES IN LAHORE AND PESHAWAR INVADDED LEBANESE EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD AT ABOUT 0500 HOURS MAY 9. AFTER FORCING WAY PAST LONE PAKISTANI GUARD, THEY SURPRISED LEBANESE AMBASSADOR ADRA AT MORNING PRAYERS AND INFORMED HIM THEY HAD TAKEN OVER EMBASSY ( AMBASSADOR RESIDES IN CHANCERY). STUDENTS REPORTEDLY TOLD AMBASSADOR THEY DID NOT CONSIDER HIM HOSTAGE AND WISHED TO MAKE ONLY TWO DEMANDS: THAT THEY BE ALLOWED OCCUPY EMBASSY FOR 24 HOURS, AND THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE IN PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR.

2. IT NOT CERTAIN WHETHER POLICE WERE MADE AWARE AT TIME OF STUDENT ENTRY, BUT NO POLICE APPEARED ON SCENE FOR A GOOD TWO HOURS. POLICE DID NOT INITIALLY ATTEMPT TO ENTER EMBASSY, BUT LINED UP FORCE OF AT LEAST 100 ARMED POLICE IN VACANT LAND ACROSS STREET FROM EMBASSY.

3. SHORTLY THEREAFTER NUMBER OF PAKISTANI AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS APPEARED ON SCENE AND WERE ALLOWED INTO EMBASSY BY STUDENTS. LATER IN MORNING CHIEFS OF MISSION FROM ALGERIA, IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES WERE ALSO ADMITTED TO EMBASSY, AS WAS RANKING GOP SECURITY OFFICER AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. AFTER TALKING WITH STUDENTS, ARAB AMBASSADORS INFORMED GOP OFFICIALS THAT LEBANESE AMBASSADOR HAD AGREED TO STUDENT DEMAND FOR PRESS CONFERENCE, IF GOP LCULD CONCUR. AT ABOUT NOON MFA INFORMED AMBASSADOR ADRA THAT GOP DID NOT AGREE TO HOLDING OF PRESS CONFERENCE. ( COMMENT: THIS DECISION PRESUMABLY MADE WITH FULL CONCURRENCE OF PRESIDENT BHUTTO.)

4. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, STUDENTS IN CHANCERY GARDEN ROUNDED UP JOURNALISTS AND BEGAN TO HOLD IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE. THIS PRECIPITATED CHARGE BY POLICE ARMED WITH CLUBS, RUBBER HOSES AND RIFLE BUTTS. ABOUT 50 STUDENTS WERE APPREHENDED, TIED UP AND SHOVED ABOARD WAITING POLICE VANS, SOME WITH VISIBLE INJURIES. HOWEVER, ABOUT HALF OF STUDENT GROUP MANAGED TO GET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AWAY ON FOOT AND SCATTERED IN ALL DIRECTIONS. AS THIS BEING DRAFTED POLICE HAVE FANNED OUT ALL OVER ISLAMABAD IN ROVING PATROLS ATTEMPTING TO CAPTURE REST OF STUDENTS.

5. ASIDE FROM FEW INJURIES TO STUDENTS ( WHICH OBSERVED BY U. S. ARMY ATTACHE WHO WAS ON SCENE MOST OF MORNING),

THERE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN NO OTHER CASUALTIES.  
LEBANESE AMBASSADOR, ALTHOUGH SHAKEN, WAS  
UNMOLESTED. STUDENTS REPORTEDLY CAUSED MINOR PHYSICAL  
DAMAGE TO OFFICE FURNITURE AND PAPERS. ACCORDING  
REUTERS CORRESPONDENT, WHO SPENT MOST OF MORNING IN  
EMBASSY, STUDENTS HAD SET BLAZES IN CHANCERY WITH " FIRE  
BOMBS" OF UNDETERMINED CHARACTER. STUDENTS ALSO PUT UP  
PALESTINIAN FLAG AND ERECTED SIGNS AND POSTERS ALL OVER  
EMBASSY WITH SUCH SLOGANS AS " DOWN WITH IMPERIALIST  
PLOTS," # SEPTEMBER IN JORDAN WONT' T ( HAPPEN) AGAIN,"  
AND " WE CALL ON PAKISTAN FOR SUPPORT OF PALESTINE."  
POLICE HAVE REMOVED ALL BANNERS AND POSTERS.

6. COMMENT: THERE ARE LARGE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN AND  
OTHER ARAB STUDENTS AT VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES  
THROUGHOUT PAKISTAN. THIS GROUP WAS PROBABLY LED BY  
COMBINATION OF GENERAL UNION OF PALESTINE STUDENTS  
( GUPS) AND AN ARAB STUDENT ORGANIZATION, BOTH FROM  
LAHORE, AND BY GUPS BRANCH AT PESHAWAR. NO INDICATIONS  
YET WHAT ACTION IF ANY GOP WILL TAKE AGAINST  
ARRESTED STUDENTS.

SOBER

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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